

**Amendments to the Claims:**

- 1-60. (canceled)
61. (canceled)
62. (canceled)
- ~~1~~ <sup>1</sup> ~~63~~. (previously presented) An isolated polypeptide comprising:
- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523;
  - (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide; or
  - (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487.
- ~~2~~ <sup>1</sup> ~~64~~. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim ~~63~~ <sup>1</sup> comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523.
- ~~3~~ <sup>1</sup> ~~65~~. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim ~~63~~ <sup>1</sup> comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide.
- 66-67. (canceled)
- ~~4~~ <sup>1</sup> ~~68~~. (previously presented) The isolated polypeptide of Claim ~~63~~ <sup>1</sup> comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487.
- ~~7~~ <sup>5</sup> ~~69~~. (currently amended) A chimeric polypeptide comprising a polypeptide according to Claim ~~61~~ or ~~74~~ fused to a heterologous polypeptide.
- ~~8~~ <sup>7</sup> ~~70~~. (previously presented) The chimeric polypeptide of Claim ~~69~~ <sup>7</sup>, wherein said heterologous polypeptide is an epitope tag or an Fc region of an immunoglobulin.
- 71-73. (canceled)

5 ~~74~~. (previously presented) An isolated polypeptide comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523; or
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487, wherein said polypeptide induces proliferation of rat utricular supporting cells.

6 ~~75~~. (previously presented) An isolated polypeptide of Claim <sup>5</sup>~~74~~ comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 99% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide; or
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487, wherein said polypeptide induces proliferation of rat utricular supporting cells.